



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities, and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.” ~ Harry Truman

Friday, April 18, 2008

The Indiana Women’s Prison held a Grand Opening Ceremony for the Wee Ones Nursery. Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, Commissioner Donahue, and community organizations representatives attended, and the event received positive media coverage.

Students from Ancilla College recently toured Westville Correctional Facility. The tour focused on the facility’s re-entry programming offered through PEN Products, the education department, and the ACT program.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, where a total of 73 volunteers and family members were treated to dinner, door prizes, and words of appreciation from staff and offenders.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Inside Out Dads graduation ceremony for 20 offenders. Director of Religious Services Steve Hall participated in the event, and the guest speaker was counselor Elvin Taylor.

The St. Vincent Youth Detention Ministry recently provided the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility with a religious program. The entire population participated in the program, which was followed by an ice cream social.

Staff members at Rockville Correctional Facility held a bake sale raising \$226 for the March of Dimes – March for Babies team. Several staff members will be participating in the upcoming Wabash Valley March for Babies.

A graduation ceremony was recently held at Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility for the IUPUI Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. PREF residents and IUPUI students were recognized, and the story was featured on Indianapolis WISH-TV.

The Notre Dame Folk Choir entertained the offender population at Indiana State Prison, and nearly 300 attended the program.

Westville Correctional Facility recently held a chicken sale, and \$2,000 was raised and donated to the local Boy Scouts.

Ms. Linda Novak, the Social Studies teacher at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility, was recently awarded the “We the People” Scholarship to attend the 2008 “We the People Institute for Teachers” at James Madison University.

A religious workshop was recently conducted by Kairos Prison Ministries at Pendleton Correctional Facility. 42 offenders participated in the event that encourages offenders to break down divisive barriers.

The Indiana Women’s Prison recently held a PLUS Graduation Ceremony to recognize 14 offender graduates.

Madison Correctional Facility held a community advisory board meeting that had the highest attendance to date. The Sheriff’s department, Mayor’s office, county commissioners, and area non-profit agencies were all represented.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Advisory Board learned a great deal from Ivy Tech administrator LeaAnne Crooks, who spoke about educational and vocational opportunities offered to offenders by Ivy Tech. Director John Nally also attended.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently hosted a hiring fair that allowed employers to come into the facility and interview residents who are within 90 days of release. 34 employer representatives attended, and 2 residents were offered employment.

Heather Waters and Rich McCulley performed for staff and offenders on death row at Indiana State Prison. The performance was the first allowed on death row.

Indianapolis Women’s Community Re-entry Center held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, awarding certificates to the volunteers.

Miami Correctional Facility held a CLIFF completion ceremony for 35 offenders, and more than 73 completed the program.